

GRAND OPENING FOR CAROLINE SEVERANCE MANOR

By Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, LACDMH Public Information Officer



On Wednesday, December 10, 2014, a grand opening and dedication ceremony was held for Caroline Severance Manor on West 8th Street in the mid-Wilshire/Koreatown neighborhood of Los Angeles.

"This grand opening is a culmination of a dream that my congregation began 15 years ago," said Reverend Rick Hoyt-McDaniels of the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, a church Caroline Severance was deeply connected with. The church decided to name the development after her to honor her for what she did for social justice. She was a suffragist and a civic leader who passed away in 1914.



"We have created a community of people who care about homelessness," explained Marvin Southard, D.S.W., Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH). "With our projects, like this one, we are infusing a message of social justice in our community. I want to thank our partners for creating projects like this that make lives better."

Funded with the help of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), the affordable housing development is comprised of 85 apartments for low-income and homeless families and individuals; 18 designated for homeless families who are clients of LACDMH, 30 designated for homeless adults (26-56 years old) who are clients of LACDMH and living with severe and persistent mental illness, and 37 designated for low-income working families.



The mixed-use housing complex includes a licensed childcare facility and public parking garage that belongs to its neighbor, First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles. Residents also have access to social service linkages (including mental health services), a community garden, a food bank and after-school programs. The development is LEED Certified Gold and Silver with energy-efficient materials and methods used throughout the building and site.

Developed by Mercy Housing California, the complex had several development partners, including LACDMH, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, California Community Foundation, and the Housing and Community Investment Department of the City of Los Angeles, to name a few.

